encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(viii) For the speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced, *w.e.f* 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(ix) The National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches, and the Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry, especially apparel, in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(x) Facilities like eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get garments/textiles pre-tested so that they conform to the requirements of the importing countries.

**Sanction of AEZ for potatoes in Hassan, Karnataka**

3060. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka requesting for sanctioning AEZ for potatoes in Hassan in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the delay and by when the said proposal would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for setting up of Agri Export Zone (AEZ) for potato envisaging a total investment of Rs. 179 crores covers the districts of Hassan, Chickamagalur, Dharwar and Belgaum in Karnataka.

(c) ' A peer evaluation of the performance of the existing AEZs, with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in achievement of targets

and suggest remedial action, has been undertaken. The proposal for setting up of AEZ for potato would be taken up for consideration on conclusion of the peer evaluation.

**Survey to identify 'no industry' district**

3061. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a survey to identify 'no industry' districts in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set up joint ventures in these districts with the help of foreign Government to develop these districts; and

(d) if so, the names of foreign countries in collaboration with which joint-ventures have been set up in 'no industry' districts in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The All India Gradation List prepared by Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue on the basis of financial, infrastructural and industrial parameters has identified the following districts as "no industry" districts:

| District | State |
|---|---|
| Godda, Gumla, Araria, Madhepura, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Jahanabad, Saharsa, Lohardaga | Bihar |
| Siddhartnagar, Maharajgunj | Uttar Pradesh |
| Uttarkashi, Chamoli | Uttaranchal |
| Barmer, Jaisalmer, Churu | Rajasthan |
| Chatarpur, Surguja | Madhya Pradesh |
| Cooch Behar, Bankura, Malda, Jalpaigudi | West Bengal |
| Kalahandi, Phulbani | Orissa |
| Wayanad, Idukki | Kerala |